

Message Text

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43

ACTION EB-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CAB-09 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00

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R 072300Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2437

INFO AMCONSUL VANCOUVER

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRN, CA

SUBJECT: CIVAIR: PRECLEARANCE.

1. GOC IS PROPOSING ESTABLISHMENT OF US PRECLEARANCE AT VICTORIA, B.C. TO ACCOMMODATE PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES AND DESIRES RESUMPTION OF SERVICE TERMINATED JUNE 1972 ON CP RAIL'S VICTORIA-SEATTLE FERRY SERVICE. TEXT OF JANUARY 2 LETTER TO TCO FROM EXTAFF (FULFORD, DIRECTOR, TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND ENERGY DIVISION) FOLLOWS:

BEGIN TEXT

I AM WRITING TO SUGGEST THAT AT AN APPROPRIATE TIME, PRESUMABLY AFTER THE RATIFICATION BY OUR RESPECTIVE GOVERNMENTS OF THE AGREEMENTS ON ROUTES, PRECLEARANCE AND CHARTERS, WE EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITY OF INTRODUCING U.S. PRECLEARANCE FACILITIES IN VICTORIA, B.C. PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES WOULD LIKE TO INTRODUCE PRECLEARANCE OF THEIR FLIGHTS BETWEEN VICTORIA AND SEATTLE, WASHINGTON. WE COULD ALSO USE THIS OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS THE CASE OF CP RAIL, ALTHOUGH THIS MATTER IS NOT CONNECTED WITH THE PRECLEARANCE AGREEMENT. CP RAIL HAVE ASKED FOR THE RE-INTRODUCTION OF PRECLEARANCE FOR THEIR FERRY OPERATIONS TO THE U.S. MAINLAND.

THE CASE FOR PRECLEARANCE FOR PACIFIC WESTERN AIRLINES'

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SERVICE TO SEATTLE APPEARS TO BE JUSTIFIED. THE CANADIAN

CARRIER IS DISCRIMINATED AGAINST BECAUSE IT IS REQUIRED TO USE THE INTERNATIONAL TERMINAL AT SEATTLE WHICH IS A MORE EXPENSIVE OPERATION AND IN ADDITION RESTRICTS ITS ATTEMPTS TO LINK UP WITH ONWARD TRAFFIC WITHIN THE U.S., WHICH USE THE DOMESTIC TERMINAL. U.S. AIRLINES HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO USE THE DOMESTIC TERMINAL SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN PRECLEARED AT VANCOUVER AND SEATTLE, MORNING, NOON AND EVENING. CP RAIL CLAIM THEY INCURRED SUBSTANTIAL LOSSES ON THE FERRY SERVICES IN 1972 BETWEEN VICTORIA AND SEATTLE AND THEY BELIEVE THESE LOSSES WERE INCREASED DUE TO THE TERMINATION OF PRECLEARANCE EFFECTIVE JUNE 1, 1972. THEIR SHIPS OPERATE FROM MAY TO OCTOBER AND NORMALLY DEPART VICTORIA AT 5:30 P.M. THEY OPERATE A SECOND SERVICE WHICH COULD ALSO USE PRECLEARANCE FROM VICTORIA TO PORT ANGELES WHICH RUNS FROM JUNE TO SEPTEMBER. WE UNDERSTAND THERE ARE TWO OTHER FERRY SERVICES WHICH MAY REQUIRE PRECLEARANCE, THE BLACKBALL FERRY SERVICE TO PORT ANGELES AND THE WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES WHICH RUN TO ANACORTES.

WE WOULD APPRECIATE THE VIEWS OF THE UNITED STATES AUTHORITIES ON THE FEASIBILITY OF ESTABLISHING PRECLEARANCE SERVICES IN VICTORIA AT THEIR EARLIEST OPPORTUNITY.

END TEXT

2. COMMENT: MOT (SEAL) ADVISED JAN. 7 THAT HIS MINISTRY ATTACHES HIGH PRIORITY SECURING PROMPT CONSIDERATION THIS REQUEST BY USG AGENCIES WHICH IT HOPES WOULD BE WILLING TO SEND EVALUATION TEAM TO VICTORIA IN NEAR FUTURE TO DISCUSS SITUATION AT SITE. THIS PRIORITY RELATES TO MOT INTEREST IN GIVING APPEARANCE OF ACTION RE WESTERN TRANSPORT PROBLEMS IN WHICH OPERATIONS OF PWA AND CP RAIL ARE IMPORTANT.

3. SEAL BELIEVES ONE TO TWO US CUSTOMS INSPECTORS WOULD BE ADEQUATE TO HANDLE 4 TO 6 FLIGHTS, 160 TO 260 PASSENGERS, DAILY AND THAT CANADIAN CUSTOMS AREA AT VICTORIA AIRPORT WOULD BE SUITABLE SINCE IT IS UNDER-USED. HOPES THAT DISCUSSION OF CP RAIL FERRY SITUATION COULD TAKE PLACE ON SAME OCCASION AS AIR PROPOSAL.*
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4. ACTION REQUESTED: EMBASSY IS ACKNOWLEDGING FULFORD LETTER IN ROUTINE MANNER. WE WOULD APPRECIATE GUIDANCE FOR SUBSTANTIVE RESPONSE, AS WELL AS ANY OTHER VIEWS WHICH MIGHT BE PASSED INFORMALLY TO SEAL.
SCHMIDT

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